STANHOPE

Urban Sanitary District

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1900.

Durham:
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1901.

To the Stanhope Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for 1900. The Vital Statistics have been calculated on an estimated population of 2010.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Respiratory Diseases Death Rate.
1890	1900	26·8	12·6	Nil	80	Nil	2·6
1891	1864	29·5	16·6	Nil	72	1·6	4·8
1892	1864	27·3	15·3	3	80	1·6	4·8
1893	1864	29·3	15·0	1·0	109	1·0	2·1
1894	1864	26·2	15·5	4·2	102	1·0	1·6
1895	1900	30·5	22·6	3·1	137	4·2	3·2
1896	1935	26·8	11·3	1·0	57	1·5	1·5
1897	1960	29·0	11·2	1·0	35	1·0	1·5
1898	1976	23·2	12·1	1·5	127	2·5	1·5
1899	1992	32·1	15·0	1·4	62	3·4	1·5
Averages for years 1890-1899.	1911·9	28·07	14·7	1·35	86·1	1·78	2·51
1900	2010	28·3	13·9	1·9	52	2·4	1·9
County Rates for 1900.		35	18·6	1·72	167	1·26	3·66

During the year 32 deaths were registered in the District, and two belonging to this District died in the County Asylum, a total of 34—18 males and 16 females. Six were of "non-residents," and of these one came from Newcastle and another from Burnopfield. The remaining four died in the Workhouse (from Wolsingham (2), Rookhope, and St. John's Chapel). This leaves a total for Stanhope Urban District of 28, giving a death rate of 13·96 per 1000.

The following are the ages at death :—Under one year, 3 ; one and under five, 4 ; five and under fifteen, 2 ; fifteen and under twenty-five, 1 ; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 13 ; sixty-five and over, 11.

Infectious Disease.—Four deaths occurred from Infectious Disease, viz., three from Membranous Croup and one from Whooping Cough.

Infant Mortality.—Of the three deaths under one year one was due to Malnutrition, another to Premature Birth, and the third to Bronchitis, equal to a rate of 52·6 per 1000 births registered, compared with an average of 86 for previous 10 years, and with the County Rate for 1900 of 167.

Phthisis.—Caused 6 deaths, 1 non-resident, leaving 5 for Stanhope, a rate of 2·48 per 1000.

Other Lung Diseases.—Caused 5 deaths, 1 non-resident, a rate of 1·99 per 1000.

Births.—There were registered during 1900 the Births of 29 males and 28 females, a total of 57, compared with 46 in the previous year, giving a birth rate of 28·35 per 1000.

Tables **I., II., III., IV.** are attached.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1900 14 cases of Infectious Disease were notified—3 of Membranous Croup, 2 of Scarlet Fever, and 9 of Erysipelas.

Membranous Croup.—One case occurred in the Butts towards the end of March, and another at the Butts Head on April 1st. No insanitary condition was found immediately surrounding the dwellings, but both children were known to have been playing at the over-flow sewer at the Butts Ford. The third case occurred about the middle of April in Cross Street, and was due to the emptying of a foul privy-midden near where the child lived.

Scarlet Fever.—One case occurred in Back Lane in June, and another at Stone Houses in October. Every precaution was taken to keep the patients isolated; disinfectants were supplied, and the rooms were fumigated.

Erysipelas.—Nine cases were notified during the year—a very large proportion of total notifications.

Diarrhœa was not epidemic at any time during the year, and there were no deaths.

Influenza was epidemic in January and February, but no deaths were attributable to it.

Measles.—Two cases occurred in September, just after Stanhope Fair.

Whooping Cough.—Seven cases were observed in December, and it caused one death. The disease assumed epidemic proportions in January, 1901, and the Schools were closed for a month (from January 7th).

Tubercular Disease.—The Consumption Rate is still high, viz., 2·48 per 1000, as compared with 1.26 for the county. During the year your Council, as a result of recommendations in the last two Annual Reports, have

(1). Arranged with the Registrar to have deaths from Phthisis notified (as in other cases of Infectious Disease).

(2). Offered disinfection of houses or rooms wherein Consumptives have died.

(3). Distributed Pamphlets entitled "Consumption and Hints for its Prevention."

During the year a Sanatorium for the treatment of patients has been started at Horn Hall by the Society for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption for the County of Durham. Accommodation is limited to twelve patients, and the first cases were admitted on May 15th. I believe the plans for an extension of the building have been passed by your Council to accommodate eight more patients.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply.—There has been an abundant supply of pure water without any risk of contamination.

The mains from Back Lane Cottages to the Square and Cowgarth Hill have been re-laid.

Fire plugs have been fitted at 17 points, and the necessary fittings have been got to be used in outbreaks of fire. A Fire Brigade has also been formed.

Disposal of Excrement and Scavenging.—There are still a few ashpit-privies of defective construction which require re-building, and which have been reported on at different times. Nuisances arising from over full ashpits have been less numerous than in former years. House refuse is got rid of by being thrown into the river at different points, e.g., Horn Hall, the Butts Ford, Riverside Walk, and over Stanhope Burn Bridge; and by being deposited on the roadside beyond the East end of the town. A place for rubbish disposal is very much needed.

Inspections and Results.—Systematic Inspections, with and without your Inspector, have been made at different times. In August I reported that "the Inspection was satisfactory, in so far that no gross insanitary matter was observed. The yards were clean, and with a few exceptions middens were dry and caused no nuisance. Certain defective ashpit-privies were again noted. Numbers of defective water taps occur all over the town." 22 written notices have been given by your Inspector. Four were to provide proper gulley traps in yards. Six were for structural defects in ashpits and privies. Two were in respect of liquid manure flowing on to road. Three were for blocked w.c.'s. Seven were for over full ashpits. 55 verbal notices to clean out ashpits were also given in the year, and numerous notices to remedy defective water taps.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1.—Bye-laws based on L.G.B. Model. The present Bye-laws date back to 1875, and are based on the Public Health Act, 1848, and Local Government Act, 1858.

2.—Some means of Isolating Infectious Cases.

3.—Registration and Regulation of Dairies and Cowsheds.

4.—Place for Refuse Disposal.

5.—Some form of more Systematic Scavenging.

6.—Improvement of Eastern Sewerage Section.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JNO. GRAY.

February 11th, 1901.